

Category #54:

The Guidelines should eliminate the cleaning product self-certification process.

State Response:

The Affidavit (Appendix #1) has been changed from one which is completed by the Manufacturer to a document which now needs to be completed by a certified testing lab. In an effort to meet the needs of companies who feels their products meet or exceed Green Seal or Environmental Choice health and environmental requirements, and who did not want to go through the process and costs associated with certification from either of these organizations, there is an alternative. Potential liabilities are mitigated by the benefits of allowing more companies to participate in our list of approved cleaning products. School districts will now have a number of choices to meet the variety of cleaning needs and allow a wide range of vendors to participate in our procurement process.

Frequently Asked Public Comment:**Self-Certification**

--We find the idea of “self-certification” of compliance with Green Seal standards problematic. In view of the fact that a significant amount of “greenwashing” has taken place on the consumer and institutional levels (with some manufacturers inventing their own green cleaning labels and standards), there needs to be a higher level of credibility established on the commercial level if green cleaners are to be accepted. We feel very strongly that the current provisions for random testing and a threat of removal from the list of approved products (and no other penalties) are insufficient to provide the level of accountability needed to ensure that all manufacturers are truthful in the representations they make of their products.

We understand the concerns expressed by the manufacturers in relation to the cost of Green Seal certification. At the same time, it is likely that New York State will have limited resources for random product testing as well. Thus we propose that the current requirement for a signed affidavit be replaced by an impartial third party review / assessment. This would ensure the credibility of the list of approved products, reduce the costs manufacturers would incur to substantiate that their products comply with the guidelines and remove the financial and managerial responsibility from New York State to manage the random testing program.

More specifically, we recommend that you require third part efficacy testing for Green Seal certified products; and a third party product formulation review as well as a third party efficacy test for non-Green Seal certified products.

(Katherine Kelleher of (NYSUT) NYS United Teachers)

DESIGNATION OF APPROVED PRODUCTS**B. Selection of Approved Environmentally Sensitive Cleaning Products****1. Green Seal, Inc. GS-37**

Recommended Change: OGS is adopting Green Seal, Inc., GS-37 for industrial and institutional cleaners. The GS-37 criteria applies to General Purpose Cleaners, Bathroom Cleaners, Carpet Cleaners and Glass, Window and Mirror Cleaners. (See Section VI for definitions of product categories, and Appendix 3 for GS-37.)

- Companies with products that have Green Seal Inc. certification (GS-37) for General Purpose Cleaners; Bathroom Cleaners; Carpet Cleaners and Glass, Window and Mirror Cleaners must submit such

documentation.

- Companies must submit their efficacy test scores for each product based on the Green Seal ASTM testing.
- Companies must submit the costs for each product (cost per gallon of diluted wash solution per product usage recommendation)
- Companies submitting Green Seal certification, efficacy scores for specific products and costs, will be placed on the New York State sample list of Environmentally Sensitive Cleaning Products showing their costs and efficacy ratings.
- ~~• Companies that do not have Green Seal certification for a specific product in the cleaning categories mentioned above, but can prove they meet Green Seal Inc. standards, must:~~
 - ~~a. Submit a signed affidavit (See Appendix #1) stating that they meet Green Seal Inc. GS 37 standards.~~
 - ~~b. Submit the actual efficacy test from a certified lab stating they used the same ASTM testing standards and soils as the Green Seal Inc. efficacy tests.~~
 - ~~c. Products meeting a. and b. above will be placed on the New York State sample list of Environmentally Sensitive Cleaning Products showing their costs (per gallon of diluted wash solution per product usage recommendation) and efficacy ratings.~~
 - ~~d. Companies must submit the same documentation of their own testing results that they would have provided for Green Seal Inc. certification.~~
 - ~~e. Products may randomly be tested by an independent laboratory to verify such claims.~~
 - ~~f. Products found not to meet these requirements, will be removed from the list of approved or accepted products.~~

Justification: It is our STRONG recommendation the entire self certification section be eliminated from the guidelines. It presents too much potential for loss of consistency in testing procedures and for products to enter the marketplace without a nationally recognized standard to support them. We STRONGLY encourage the State to adopt Green Seal Inc. as a uniform standard for all environmentally preferable cleaning products. Green Seal Inc. provides accepted health and environmental standards for all public and nonpublic schools. Green Seal Inc. provides a uniform, acceptable standard for *all* companies that provide environmentally preferable products.

2. Green Seal, Inc. GS-41:

Recommend Change: OGS is will adopting the Green Seal, Inc. ~~proposed~~ standard (GS-41) for Hand Soaps when Green Seal, Inc has adopted the standard and provided a list of approved products. (See Section VI for definition of product categories, and Appendix #4 for GS-41)

- Companies meeting GS-41 must submit their Green Seal, Inc. certification documentation along with cost information, from which an approved list will be developed.
- ~~• Companies that do not have GS 41 certification, but can prove they meet the standard, must submit a signed affidavit (See Appendix #1) stating that they meet Green Seal, Inc. GS 41 standards.~~
 - ~~a. Companies must submit the same documentation of their own testing results that they would have provided for Green Seal Inc. certification.~~
 - ~~b. Companies must submit the costs for the product.~~
 - ~~c. Products may randomly be tested by an independent laboratory to verify such claims.~~
 - ~~d. Products found not to meet these requirements, will be removed from the list of approved or accepted products.~~

Justification: SBGA supports the use of GS-41. However, these are currently *proposed* standards which have not yet been adopted by Green Seal, Inc. As a proposed standard, GS-41 is subject to change, and a list of approved hand soap products has not yet been issued.

It is our STRONG recommendation the entire self certification section be eliminated from the guidelines. We STRONGLY encourage the State to adopt Green Seal Inc. as a uniform standard for all environmentally preferable cleaning products. Green Seal Inc. provides a uniform, acceptable standard for *all* companies that provide environmentally preferable products.

3. Green Seal, Inc. GS-09:

Recommended Change: OGS is adopting the Green Seal, Inc. standard (GS-09) for Paper Towels and Paper Napkins (See Section VI for definition of product categories, and Appendix #5 for GS-09).

- Companies meeting GS-09 must submit their Green Seal, Inc. certification documentation along with cost information, from which an approved list will be developed.
- ~~Companies that do not have GS-09 certification, but can prove they meet the standard, must submit a signed affidavit (See Appendix #1) stating that they meet Green Seal, Inc. GS-09 standards.~~
 - ~~a. Companies must submit the same documentation of their own testing results that they would have provided for Green Seal Inc. certification.~~
 - ~~b. Companies must submit the costs for the product.~~
 - ~~c. Products may randomly be tested by an independent laboratory to verify such claims.~~
 - ~~d. Products found not to meet these requirements, will be removed from the list of approved or accepted products.~~

Justification: It is our STRONG recommendation this entire self certification section be eliminated from the guidelines. We STRONGLY encourage the State to adopt Green Seal Inc. as a uniform standard for all environmentally preferable cleaning products. Green Seal Inc. provides a uniform, acceptable standard for *all* companies that provide environmentally preferable products.

4. Green Seal, Inc. GS-01:

Recommended Change: OGS is adopting the Green Seal, Inc. standard (GS-01) for Tissue Paper. (See Section VI for definition of product categories, and Appendix #6 for GS-01)

- Companies meeting GS-01 must submit their Green Seal, Inc. certification documentation along with cost information, from which an approved list will be developed.
- ~~Companies that do not have GS-01 certification, but can prove they meet the standard, must submit a signed affidavit (See Appendix #1) stating that they meet Green Seal, Inc. GS-01 standards.~~
 - ~~a. Companies must submit the same documentation of their own testing results that they would have provided for Green Seal Inc. certification.~~
 - ~~b. Companies must submit the costs for the product.~~
 - ~~c. Products may randomly be tested by an independent laboratory to verify such claims.~~
 - ~~d. Products found not to meet these requirements, will be removed from the list of approved or accepted products.~~

Justification: It is our STRONG recommendation the entire self certification section be eliminated from the guidelines. We STRONGLY encourage the State to adopt Green Seal Inc. as a uniform standard for all environmentally preferable cleaning products. Green Seal Inc. provides a uniform, acceptable standard for *all* companies that provide environmentally preferable products.

(Signed By: David Brooks (Malone CSD), President & Frederick Koelbel (West Islip UFSD), 1st Vice President, Legislative Committee Chairman)(Submitted By: Kathleen Van De Loo, Executive Director, (NYS SBGA) NYS Association for Superintendents of School Buildings and Grounds, Inc., Albany, NY)